

REMARKS

Claims 1-19, 22-32 and 36-51 are pending in the action, with claims 1, 3-8, 11-12, 22-24, 27, 31 and 36 being independent.

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Pierre again for the indication of allowance of claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11-19, 22-32, 36-39, 45-46 and 48-51.

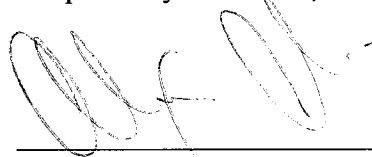
In response to the Office Action, claims 4 and 6 are canceled, without disclaimer or prejudice of the subject matter recited therein. Dependency of claims 10, 40, 42-44 and 47 also has been amended in view of the cancellation of claims 4 and 6. No new matter has been added.

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. For all of the reasons set forth above, it is urged that the application is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 06-1050 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 4/21/01

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